

**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE
11:00, 11 October 2022
via Zoom**

MINUTES

In attendance

Professor Wolfgang Schmitt, Dean of Research (Chair)
Professor Brian Broderick, Associate Dean of Research
Professor Immo Warntjes, Associate Dean of Research
Professor Nicholas Johnson, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts
Professor Joseph Roche, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English
Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of Research, School of Histories & Humanities
Professor Mary Cosgrove, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Professor Deirdre Ahern, Director of Research, School of Law
Professor Nathan Hill, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences
Professor Claire Gillan, Director of Research, School of Psychology
Professor Pablo Gracia, on behalf of the Director of Research, School of Social Sciences & Philosophy
Professor Eburne Garcia Iriarte, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy
Professor Etain Tannam, Director of Research, School of Religion, Theology and Peace Studies
Professor Ed Lavelle, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Professor Mathias Senge, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
Professor Declan O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Michael Monaghan, Director of Research, School of Engineering
Professor Frank Wellmer, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Professor Sergey Mozgovoy, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
Professor Hal Duncan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science
Professor Ursula Fearon, Director of Research, School of Medicine
Professor Sharon O'Donnell, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Aideen Long, Director, Trinity Translational Medicine Institute
Professor Eve Patten, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub
Professor Rhodri Cusack, Director, Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience
Professor Eoin O'Sullivan, Senior Dean
Mr Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research and Innovation
Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association
Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Development, Office of the Dean of Research
Dr Raquel Harper, Head of Research Development, Trinity Research & Innovation
Ms Elaine Sharkey, Projects Accounting Manager, Financial Services Division
Ms Siobhán O'Shea, Senior HR Specialist, Human Resources
Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, Library
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

Apologies

Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of CRANN
Doris Alexander, Associate Director for European Engagement
Professor Kingston Mills, Director of TBSI
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies
Professor Sharyn O'Halloran, Director of Research, School of Sciences and Philosophy

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Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval	
A.1	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Draft minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to the committee in advance. An amendment was noted under item B.4 regarding postdoc teaching. The amendment was incorporated into the minutes which were then approved.</p>
A.2	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>RS/21-22/17 It was noted that the revised IP Policy had been presented to Planning Group, EOG, and Finance after it was presented to Research Committee. DOR was satisfied with the current proposals regarding equity distribution between schools and institutes.</p> <p>Prof. Jane Ohlmeyer stressed the importance of engagement with the process around the merger of SFI and the IRC and suggested that members of the committee should be ambassadors for the change they would like to see. It was suggested that three messages were important to reiterate: bottom up schemes for basic frontier research; the importance of interdisciplinary research; appropriate governance which should be provided by active researchers with a balance across disciplines.</p>
A.3	<p>RS/22-23/1 Proposal to establish a Trinity Research Centre Prof. Stephen Dooley, School of Physics</p> <p><i>Prof. Stephen Dooley and Juan Valverde joined the meeting for this item.</i></p> <p>A proposal to establish a Trinity Research Centre in Low Carbon Technologies was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. Prof. Dooley presented an overview of the proposal to the committee. It was noted that the focus of the centre would be on sustainability in terms of the environment, energy, and economy and would base its work around UN SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy). Prof. Dooley noted that the centre would seek interdisciplinary contributions to work across its four identified themes: aviation, low carbon power, clean and affordable water, carbon capture and utilisation. He noted that the ambition was to provide a ‘shop window’ for research on sustainability and decarbonisation so as to effectively engage with external stakeholders.</p> <p>In response to questions from the committee it was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was some overlap with other initiatives around College and a risk of competing for the same resources. SD noted to the committee that the centre would be set up to identify who is working on specific topics and find gaps that could be filled rather than competing with colleagues. • The proposal did not currently include any external governance. SD agreed that the proposal could be revised to take this into consideration. <p>The proposal to establish the centre was approved.</p>
Section B - Items for Discussion Only	
B.1	<p>Update from Dean of Research Dean of Research</p> <p>RS/22-23/2 DOR noted that the Chief Operating Officer had been working over the summer to mitigate risks associated with potential energy blackouts during winter. DOR</p>

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noted that while the possibility of blackouts was low, it would be good practice for the research community to consider the implications. It was noted that the COO had agreed to attend the November meeting of the committee. The DOR asked Directors of Research to discuss the issue with their schools in advance so that they could raise specific issues with the COO.

It was noted that there are ongoing supply issues and long delivery times for critical goods in certain areas. DOR noted that Procurement was working to coordinate orders within College and St James's and to identify alternative suppliers where necessary. Committee was advised that specific issues should be flagged to Kevin Ryan in Procurement.

The committee was advised that HR was developing an online system for staff nomination forms. DOR noted that it would be possible to address the application of increments for postdocs as part of the form. Members of the committee noted that this would have to be communicated given the implications for budgets. Siobhán O'Shea advised that the form was in the very early stages of development and nothing would be implemented without consultation. In discussion, the committee noted ongoing questions around pension payments. Elaine Sharkey noted that all universities are experiencing similar difficulties and it has been repeatedly raised with IUA, DFHERIS, and DPER. DOR agreed to highlight the issue with the IUA again.

DOR noted that the Office of the Dean of Research was conducting an equipment census which would serve two purposes: allow the college to see what is available and identify opportunities to share equipment; highlight infrastructural issues to IUA and government.

DOR noted that there had been some difficulty in attracting an appropriately experienced candidate for the position of Head of Clinical Sponsorship and Oversight. Interim arrangements were in place until a suitable candidate would be appointed.

It was noted that Trinity had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IBM to facilitate general collaboration in the areas of quantum computing, high performance computing, accelerated discovery of materials/pharmaceuticals, digital health. Queries should be directed to Chris Keely.

The committee was reminded of the recent publication of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting of the committee.

Congratulations were noted to all recipients of recent awards:

- IRC Laureate Awards: Starting awards: Caroline Jagoe (Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences); Federico Cugurullo (Geography); Felix Binder (Physics); Jennifer O'Meara (Creative Arts); Lara Cassidy (Genetics); Luca Matrà (Physics); Martha O'Hagan-Luff (Business); Consolidator awards: Aidan McDonald (Chemistry); Jesse Dillon Savage (Political Science); Mark Ahearne (Engineering); Suzanne Cloonan (Biochemistry & Immunology);
- IRC/SFI Pathway Awards: Nicole Volmering (Histories & Humanities, and Education); Neill O'Dwyer (Creative Arts); Dania Movia (Medicine); Viviana Marzaioli (Medicine); Kevin Daly (Genetics and Microbiology); Frank Simons, (Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies); Yunfai Lai, (Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences); Eric Conway (Genetics and Microbiology).

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B.2	<p>Update from the Provost: restructuring of Trinity Research & Innovation Provost</p> <p><i>The Provost joined the meeting for this item</i></p> <p>The Provost presented an overview of the rationale behind the restructuring of Trinity Research & Innovation. It was noted that the College Calendar does not reflect how things operate in reality. The Provost noted that Global would move under ASD, with research, innovation and the new iteration of the Science Gallery moving under the Provost’s Directorate. The Provost noted to the committee that she saw her directorate as an ‘incubator’ for areas that need extra attention, and that this move would put research at the heart of Trinity in line with the Living Research Excellence Strategy and Research Charter.</p> <p>In discussion with the committee, the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new iteration of the Science Gallery would have its own director. • There was a deficit in the research and innovation units that has to be addressed before new activities could be identified. The goal was to rebalance and enhance services but the task is much greater than first anticipated. • Provost noted the importance of linking the restructuring to the Living Research Excellence Strategy. • An indication of success would be if someone new could join Trinity and successfully navigate the research or innovation journey without having to ask someone where to go for help. • Prior to restructuring there was no formal connection between the Office of the Dean of Research and Trinity Research & Innovation. • The Provost and Dean of Research noted the opportunity presented by the restructuring process to review and refine processes across College.
Section C – Items for Noting	
C.1	<p>Items for Noting</p> <p>Leonard Hobbs noted that there was an opportunity to engage in collaborative research around the CERN accelerator. Anyone interested could contact LH.</p> <p>Siobhán O’Shea noted that a career development opportunity for newly appointed PIs was launching soon. Details would be shared with the committee for wider circulation.</p>
C.2	<p>Items for future discussion</p>
C.3	<p>AOB</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>